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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/997,426	11/29/2001	Tyler Thorp	03226/136001; P6821	6431
32615	7590	12/05/2003	EXAMINER	
ROSENTHAL & OSHA L.L.P. / SUN			THOMPSON, ANNETTE M	
1221 MCKINNEY, SUITE 2800			ART UNIT	
HOUSTON, TX 77010			PAPER NUMBER	

2825

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/997,426

Applicant(s)

THORP ET AL.

Examiner

A. M. Thompson

Art Unit

2825

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 13 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicants' submission filed on 12 September 2003 has been entered.

2. In the RCE submission, Applicants' Reply under 37 CFR 1.116 has been entered. The abstract and drawings are amended. Claims 1, 5, 9, and 13 are amended. Claims 1-10 and 12-14 are pending.

Drawings

3. The replacement drawings were entered on 12 September 2003. These drawings are approved.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 2, 9 and 10 are objected to for the following reasons: Pursuant to claims 2 and 10, the relationship between the peripheral region of the clock grid and the exterior and non-exterior regions of the clock grid is unclear. Pursuant to claim 9, at line 11, before "non-exterior", insert - -a- -. Pursuant to claim 12, "the transmission structure" lacks antecedent basis. Appropriate correction is required.

5. Claim 12 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is

required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Rejection of claims 1-10, 13 and 14

7. **Claims 1-10, 13 and 14** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Holst et al. (Holst), U.S. Patent 6,127,880.

8. Pursuant to claims 1 and 5 which recites an integrated circuit (Holst discloses an active power supply filter) comprising a clock driver disposed on the integrated circuit (see Fig. 4), a clock grid disposed on the integrated circuit (Fig.4), wherein the clock driver is disposed outside a region of the clock grid (Figs. 4 and 5); and at least one interconnect arranged to propagate a signal from an output of the clock driver past an exterior region of the clock grid to a connection point residing on the non-exterior region of the clock grid (Figs. 4 and 5 illustrates this limitation).

9. Pursuant to claims 2 and 6, wherein the connection point is positioned such that a component operatively connected to the clock grid at the connection point receives a signal from the clock driver at the connection point (col. 9, ll. 42-49; col. 9, line 67 to col. 10, line 4), where the signal at the connection point has less skew than if the connection point was positioned a peripheral region of the clock grid.

10. Pursuant to claim 3 and 7, wherein the at least one interconnect is arranged in a wire tree configuration (col. 9, ll. 32-42).
11. Pursuant to claim 4 and 8, wherein the wire tree configuration is balanced (col. 9, ll. 32-42).
12. Pursuant to claim 9, which recites a method for reducing clock skew comprising sending a clock signal from a clock driver to a first component through a connection point on a clock grid (Fig. 5 illustrates this limitation), wherein the clock driver resides outside a region of the clock grid (see Fig. 5); and sending the clock signal from the clock driver to a second component through the connection point, wherein the clock signal is propagated from an output of the clock driver past an exterior region of the clock grid to the connection point, and wherein the connection point is at a non-exterior region of the clock grid (see Fig. 5).
13. Pursuant to claim 10, wherein the clock signal received by the first component and the second component has less skew than if the connection point was at a peripheral region of the clock grid (col. 9, ll. 42-49; col. 9, line 67 to col. 10, line 4).
14. Pursuant to claim 13 which recites a transmission structure (Fig. 5) for driving a signal onto a clock grid, comprising an interconnect connecting a clock driver to the clock grid, wherein the clock driver resides outside of a region of the clock grid (Figs. 4 and 5), wherein the interconnect connects the clock driver past an exterior region of the clock grid to a connection point residing at a non-exterior region of the clock grid.
15. Pursuant to claim 14, wherein the transmission structure is balanced (col. 9, ll. 32-42).

Conclusion

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Please reference the PTO-892 for a complete listing.

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to A.M. Thompson whose telephone number is (703) 305-7441. The Examiner can usually be reached Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Smith, can be reached on (703) 308-1323.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956 or the Customer Service Center whose telephone number is (703) 306-3329.

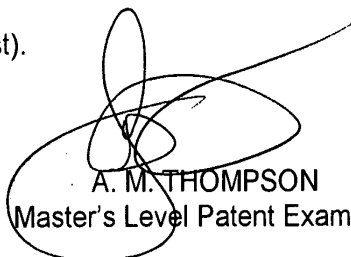
18. Responses to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306, (for all **OFFICIAL** communications intended for entry)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Plaza 4, 2021 South Clark Place, Arlington, VA., Fourth Floor (Receptionist).


A. M. THOMPSON
Master's Level Patent Examiner